

FOUR NABBED IN LOCAL DOPE RAID

Auto Crashes Barricade, Utility Worker Dies

4 Facing Charges On Dope

Inquest Pending On Death

Investigation is continuing today into the death of a gas company employee who was struck by an auto while working in the highway at 186th St. and Western Ave., Friday.

Dead is William Gratton, 42, of 18919 Yukon Ave., who succumbed at Santa Fe Hospital 20 hours after the accident.

Driving the auto was Mrs. Paul Cline, 25, of 15322 Chanera Ave., Gardena.

Although Mrs. Cline was not held after the accident, a coroner's office spokesman said this morning that an inquest probably will be slated for later in the week. At that time, a jury would decide whether Mrs. Cline could be held responsible for the death.

Officers said Gratton was working behind metal barricades on the northbound lane of divided Western Ave. when he was hit. Mrs. Cline's auto struck the metal sign, then knocked into Gratton who was hurled 70 feet by the impact.

Mrs. Cline was hysterical at the scene of the collision and investigators were unable to discuss the mishap with her.

Gratton was taken to Daniel Freeman Hospital, and later transferred to Los Angeles.

Services Saturday for Mamie Kirschner

Funeral services for Mrs. Mamie Kirschner, Royal Neighbors deputy for the past 27 years, were held Saturday in Culver City. She died Wednesday.

Mrs. Kirschner had the Torrance Royal Neighbors camp under her jurisdiction, and had been active in Rebekahs and the Women of the Moose.

She is survived by her husband, George.

Burial was in Inglewood.

Services Planned for Frances Satterthwaite

Services for Frances Ann Satterthwaite, 42, of 1216 Felber Ave., will be held in Butte, Mont., her home for many years. She died Friday.

A housewife, she was born in Butte, and had lived in Torrance about 18 months.

She is survived by her husband, R. J. Satterthwaite, a son, David, of Torrance; her mother, Mrs. Barbara Scott, and a brother, George Noel, both of Butte.



ORVILLE PORTER
... Optimist Speaker



REV. BROUGHER
... Kiwanis Speaker

Kiwanis, Optimists Plan Special Holiday Programs

Two Torrance service clubs will hold their annual Christmas programs here tonight.

Members of the Torrance Optimist Club and their ladies will meet at 7 p.m. in the Ding How Cafe to hear a former newspaperman, Orville A. Porter, speak on the topic "How to Remember Names and Faces."

The Torrance Kiwanis Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the American Legion Hall to hear Rev. J. Whitcomb Brougher Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Glendale.

Special plans for tonight's Optimist meeting include favors for the ladies and a menu which includes steak. Porter is a veteran newspaperman and draws extensively on his experiences to illustrate his lecture on remembering names. President C. A.

Woodcock will preside at the meeting.

Rev. Brougher is a graduate of L. A. High School and Redlands University and he received his theological degrees from Newton Theological Institute of Newton Centre, Mass. He was granted an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by his Alma Mater, Redlands, in 1943.

The Kiwanis speaker is well known throughout the Pacific Coast area and maintains a heavy speaking schedule before service clubs, high schools, teachers' groups, and other organizations. He is Grand Chaplain of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of California, an honorary member of the Glendale Junior Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Glendale Kiwanis Club.

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Lomita Zone Plan OK'd by Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors Thursday decided to institute the zoning plan for Lomita and Lomita Pines recommended by the Regional Planning Commission.

Over the objections of Donald J. Myers, who claimed he represented some 80 property owners, the Board ordered the county counsel to prepare the ordinance which will put into action the zone plan 30 days after the board signs it.

The Lomita and Lomita Pines areas are bounded on the north and west by the city limits of Torrance and on the east by Los Angeles.

The area is divided by the business district along Pacific Coast Hwy. and is bounded on the south by the Rolling Hills district and Palos Verdes Dr. North.

Some 10,000 residents will be affected by the zone plan which has, in general, met with approval. Of the 160 present at the public hearing in the Hall of Records, more than half were in favor of the zone plan.

Tim McCormick, leader of the committee for zoning Lomita, spoke briefly at the hearing, and was followed by L. B. Ross, of 28022 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita.

Ross, speaking in favor of the action, said: "Zoning is beneficial, good for the people and the community."

The primary objection voiced by Richard Olson, Rolling Hills attorney representing 11 property owners, was to placing the west side of Pennsylvania Ave. into an agricultural zone. He felt it should be a manufacturing zone, since there were many small businesses there now.

Sweeper Swept Away

A vacuum cleaner valued at \$120 was taken from her car, Betty Sullivan, of 23320 Huber St., reported to police.



DEDICATION . . . Bolting the first steel girder in place for Bethlehem Pacific Steel's new \$4 million fabrication plant this morning were, from left, E. W. Binder, chief engineer; E. F. Gohl, vice-president, Bethlehem Pacific Coast Steel; and, Fred C. Todd, Jr., works manager of the new plant. Located on 190th St. near Western Ave., the plant will be completed this summer. It will employ 500 men. Feature of the new structure is that it will cover 3½ acres, all under a single roof.

Petitions Asking Return Of Ousted Officials Filed

Evidence submitted on behalf of a petition for writ of mandamus which seeks to force the city to reinstate two former building inspectors to their jobs was under study today by Superior Court Judge Arnold Praeger of Los Angeles after he formally received the matter Friday.

Submitted to Judge Praeger was a petition for a writ of mandamus, which demands that the City of Torrance reinstate James S. Dresser and Cecil Smith to their former jobs with the city's Building Department.

Attorney John McCall prepared the petition and briefs for Dresser and Smith.

Judge Praeger took the petition under submission and gave the city until Dec. 27 to file its reasons for denying the petition and a list of references supporting the city's stand.

A decision on the matter will be made, probably after the first of the year, a court official told the HERALD this morning.

South Torrance Zone Plan OK'd

A zoning plan for South Torrance was approved Wednesday night by the Torrance Planning Commission, after issues in doubt were cleared up.

A number of protests were received opposing rezoning of the area south of 242nd St., and some other persons indicated they favored the changes. Most of the objections were withdrawn after an explanation of what was involved in the plan.

Discussion centered about zoning the east side of Neese Ave., and the west side of Ward St., both from 242nd to 244th St., and both sides of Park St. from 244th to Newton St.

After residents had indicated their opposition to business zoning for these areas, which adjoin business zones, the commission approved multiple residence zoning.

Other areas recommended to the council for rezoning include:

1. Sepulveda Blvd., south side, from Hawthorne Ave. to point near Ladeane Ave.
2. Hawthorne Ave., from Sepulveda to 230th.
3. Hawthorne Ave., from 237th to Lomita Blvd.
4. 230th and Hawthorne Ave., southeast corner.
5. Area including most of the territory from 238th to 242nd, from Madison to an extension of Anza.
6. Hawthorne Ave., both sides, from 236th to Newton St.
7. A triangle and three other parcels of land near Pacific

Joseph Yates Elected New Elks' Leader

Joseph E. Yates was elected exalted ruler of the newly chartered Torrance Elks Lodge at a meeting Wednesday night.

Other officers elected were F. W. Fahnestock, leading knight; Ralph Jakubowski, loyal knight; Roger Holmes, lecturing knight; C. W. Lackey, secretary; Marvin Pike, treasurer, and Sager Low, tier.

Trustees elected were C. E. Olson, five years; Frank Jakubowski, four years; Harry Carlson, three years; Mike Fenwick, two years, and Jacob Turpel, one year.

Appointed officers and committee chairmen will be elected next Wednesday evening.

Donations of foodstuffs and other items for needy families are still needed for Christmas. Persons wishing to donate may call F. W. Fahnestock, FR 5-2610.

Shell Obtains Three Local Rubber Firms

Three local synthetic rubber plants have been sold to the Shell Chemical Corporation, a subsidiary of the Shell Oil Company, sources in Washington revealed Saturday.

The contract, subject to final approval by Congress, is the first signed in a program of the Rubber Producing Facilities Disposal Commission to transfer 27 Government synthetic rubber plants to private control.

Included are plants at 19821 S. Figueroa St., currently operated by Shell; 19201 S. Vermont Ave., a copolymer plant operated by the Midland Rubber Co., and a styrene plant at 20201 S. Vermont Ave., now under control of the Dow Chemical Co.

A national security clause in the contracts prohibits the new owners from converting the plants to other uses, or to let them deteriorate, or otherwise become unfit to produce rubber for a period of 10 years, it was stated.

Installations were built during World War II at an original cost of about \$500,000,000, a Government spokesman indicated. Exact provisions of the new contracts were not released.

City Reaches \$43,561,956 In Building

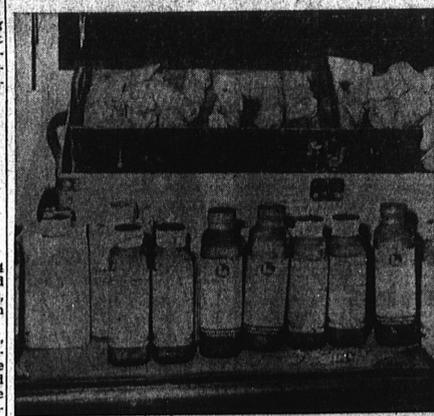
With only a few days of 1954 remaining, the city has reached \$43,561,956 in its building totals, nearly 50 per cent greater than last year's record total.

According to Walter Bradford, senior clerk in the City Engineer's office, totals for the first half of December reached \$2,694,807. Since building the last half of the month is usually slow, officials are not too hopeful that a hoped-for \$45,000,000 can be reached.

The only large tract added to the totals was one for 31 houses in Kettler Knolls, presented by the Knolls Corp., for \$309,800.



CAMERA SHY . . . Two of the four suspects nabbed here Friday night on suspicion of being part of a local dope ring duck as a HERALD cameraman tries to photograph them before they were sent to county jail.



THE DOPE HAUL . . . Shown here is part of the narcotics haul made by sheriff's deputies and Torrance police Friday evening when a Torrance home was raided. Four men were nabbed in the raid and are now facing charges in Los Angeles.



NEW ELKS OFFICERS . . . Charter officers of the Torrance Lodge of EPOE are shown here with the new exalted ruler, Joe Yates, on the telephone. Standing, left to right are Roger Holmes, lecturing knight; F. W. Fahnestock, leading knight; and Ralph Jakubowski, loyal knight. The lodge's first officers were elected last Wednesday evening.

By DICK FRIEND
Felony complaints were to be sought today against four youths arrested in a raid on a Torrance home, which police say, broke up a dangerous narcotics business catering to local teen-agers.

Officers from the Sheriff's narcotics squad and the Torrance Police Department moved in on a house at 1648 W. 221st St. late Friday night, and confiscated thousands of pills, tablets, and tins of marijuana which they claim was the main supply of drugs for the area.

Now at county jail are Jerry Eugene Codd, 21, of the 221st St. address; Donald Lee White, 23, of 911 Anapola Ave., and two Lawndale youths, Norval L. Wood, 20, and Gary Lookie, 21.

Investigators said they crashed into Codd's house and found him seated on a couch under which there were 1000 benzadrine tablets. They also found 23 cans of marijuana and another 15,000 benzadrine pills in a wooden chest under a baby crib.

They nabbed White, a Ft. MacArthur soldier, when he entered Codd's home and allegedly had a marijuana cigarette in his possession. A search of his house turned up 300 "bennies," a can of marijuana, and 50 second, or "goof ball" capsules, officers said.

The pills were hidden throughout the house, in the television set, in cookie jars, and in other places, reports show.

Locke and Wood were taken into custody when police found them in White's car parked outside the Codd home. Officers said they saw Locke throw about 1000 benzadrine tablets under the car as they approached, and more than 100 tablets were found on the auto seat.

Get Early Tip
The arrest followed a break which came when the questioning of a young narcotics suspect earlier in the week. Torrance officers Myles Hamilton and Tom Patishall interrogated a youthful suspect last Wednesday, and information obtained led to the arrests Friday.

Narcotics squad men said the drugs were imported recently from Tijuana, where no prescription is needed to purchase the dangerous powders. The drugs are smuggled across the border, and then sold in varying amounts to young users.

Cood and White, deputies said, admitted being partners in the sale of marijuana and barbiturates in the area, but Wood and Lookie denied being implicated in the dealings.

All were brought to the Torrance Police Station for fingerprinting, then transported to Lennox, Sheriff's station, and later to the county jail, where they were booked on suspicion of narcotics violations.

Arresting officers were Detective Captain Ernie Ashton, Torrance, and Sgt. D. L. Smith, and deputies Lee Stahi and Earl Talbot of the Sheriff's main office.

Find Photos
Photographs showing two of the men amid stocks of growing marijuana plants were found in Codd's house, police reported. They said the pictures were taken in Lomita.

Narcotics men said the second tablets and the benzadrine pills usually bring from five to ten cents on the "market," and marijuana brings about \$15 a tin. About 100 cigarettes, selling for 25 cents to \$1, can be made from each tin.

Help Sought to Locate Bike of Carson Youth

Help in locating the bike of a 12-year-old orphan boy living in a Carson children's boarding home has been asked by Mrs. William Hlatt, owner of the home.

Mrs. Hlatt said that one of "her boys," Jimmie Smith, rode his red and white bike to the grocery store at Normandie and Carson, Saturday afternoon, and while he was inside, someone made off with it.

They searched the area, but were unable to find the bike. It bears a license tag, No. 77760.

Mrs. Hlatt's home is at 21895 S. Berende Ave. The phone is FA 83264.